

100+ students experience Kirtland AFB for the summer

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377 ABW Public Affairs

More than 100 students ages 16-40 are getting a sample of working for the federal government through participation in Kirtland AFB's Summer-Hire program.

This annual civilian personnel initiative identifies individuals who are interested in pursuing careers in public service, and provides them with valuable work experience.

"It is more than just a Summer-Hire program. It is a way for us to cultivate a relationship with the community, and a way to begin engaging young people about federal employment," said Mark Mora, human resources specialist, Civilian Personnel Office.

Participants serve in a variety of positions and units throughout the installation. Five students in the program will be profiled in the next few paragraphs.

Adelita Romero

Recent high school graduate Adelita Romero is working at the Kirtland Bowling Center, learning the many aspects of running a recreational facility.

This is her first year participating in the Summer-Hire program, and she applied because she needed a job. Miss Romero will be serving at the bowling center until the end of September, when she plans to attend the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute and the University of New Mexico.

Miss Romero's daily tasks include keeping the center clean, as well as providing customers with bowling shoes and completing paperwork. "I like meeting new people at the center, as well as learning how to operate and service the pin machine," Miss Romero said.

Justin Rariden

Working at Base Operations is where Moriarty High School senior Justin Rariden is spending his summer.

Like Miss Romero, this is his initial year in the program. He serves a portion of his day in the hangar performing custodial duties, as well as learning about maintenance on the aircraft housed at the facility. Then, Mr. Rariden enhances his meteorological knowledge while assisting at the base Weather Center.

"I like learning about the planes, about how the fuel is housed in the wings," Rariden said about the favorite part of his Summer-Hire experience so far. His future plans may include joining the Air Force.

Kristin Konnick

Kristin Konnick is no stranger to the 377 Air Base Wing Public Affairs office where she is working over the next few months.

Although this is her first experience with the Summer-Hire program, Miss Konnick participated in the Student Temporary Experience Program for five years serving in public affairs.

She is currently completing a Masters Degree in education at the University of New Mexico, and works as an elementary school teacher with the Albuquerque Public Schools during the rest of the year.

"My favorite part of the job is meeting new people, as well as answering the questions we get asked," Miss Konnick said.

Her office duties involve several administrative activities such as creating documents, proofreading the *Nucleus*, and answering the telephone.

Eric Cruz

A sophomore at the University of New Mexico majoring in business, Eric Cruz is serving at Kirtland AFB Fire Station 1 manning the fire extinguisher shop, inspecting files, paperwork or whatever they want him to do.

Mr. Cruz views his initial Summer-Hire program participation as a good opportunity to improve his work experience.

"The experience has been great. I would like to do this again. I love it," Mr. Cruz said.

Sarah Wallace

Sarah Wallace has a close-up view of the Summer-Hire and other student programs while serving in the Civilian Personnel office.

Miss Wallace, a sophomore at New Mexico State University studying animal science, is currently working on several projects including reorganizing a computer spreadsheet, as well as helping with filing.

"It is great learning about the Air Force and other business stuff. Hopefully, I will be able to do this again next year," Miss Wallace said.

Another significant aspect of the 2004 Summer-Hire program includes six presentations for participants on such topics as ethics in government, job search techniques, winning resumes and applications, and employability skills for young adults.

These brown bag lunch sessions occur every other Friday through Aug. 13, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Room 120, Consolidated Support Building. The next seminar, featuring information on professional office behavior, is July 2.

For more information on the Summer-Hire or other student and intern training programs, call Mr. Mora at 846-8958.



Photos, clockwise from left center:

Kristin Konnick
Photo by Staff Sgt. Markus Maier

Adelita Romero
Photo by Todd Berenger

Eric Cruz
Photo by Todd Berenger

Justin Rariden
Photo by Damien Bohannon

Sarah Wallace
Photo by Damien Bohannon

